

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A common extensible software configuration markup language (XSCML) is used provided which is suitable to define a project related to the development or update of a software product. The common ~~extensible software configuration markup language~~ XSCML is preferably may be based on the Extensible Markup Language (XML). ~~By means of~~ In accordance with the XSCML, a software project definition and a system independent software configuration framework are generated. An XSCML processor is provided to access the project definition and to describe product elements and processes and define their access parameters and their relations among each other. ~~The framework is stored in the memory of one or more servers and in a database and has assigned the product elements, processes and tools in the memories. Selected ones of the product elements, tools and processes are called by at least one of a plurality of client workstations attached to the server by using the commands of XSCML. The servers may belong to geographically distributed computer systems which are connected through a communication network. Access and administration of the assigned product elements, processes and tools in the locally distributed systems and communication between these systems is performed by XSCML data streams and commands, while editing of product elements may be performed in other programming languages which are independent of the common extensible software configuration markup language.~~